

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01
MCT-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 CCO-00 IO-13 L-03 SSO-00
/070 W

-----130330 101410Z /47

O P 101335Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8467
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, KU
SUBJECT: PASSENGER VERSION OF KUWAIT HIJACKING

1. FAHAD AL-BAHAR, BOARD CHAIRMAN OF KUWAITI BANK WAS ONE OF THE PASSENGERS ON HIJACKED KAC PLANE. THROUGH HIS AMERICAN GENERAL MANAGER WE HAVE LEARNED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON HIJACKING: AL-BAHAR WAS WITH KUWAIT AMBASSADOR BUAYJAN WHEN GROUP OF SIX ARRIVED AT AIRPORT WITH PASSPORTS WHICH SEEMED SUSPICIOUS TO AIRPORT AUTHORITIES; HOWEVER, BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN CHECKED FOR WEAPONS, AND PAPERS SEEMED IN ORDER, KUWAIT AMBASSADOR SAID THEY COULD GO ON PLANE. HIJACKERS WERE ABLE TO SEIZE PLANE, AL-BAHAR SAID, BECAUSE LARGE SUPPLY OF WEAPONS HAD BEEN STASHED IN PLANE. LATER, IN POSITIVE MOOD, LEADER OF HIJACKERS TOLD AL-BAHAR THAT GROUP COULD HIJACK ANY KIND OF PLANE BECAUSE OF ITS EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION.

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2. AL-BAHAR GAVE VERY HIGH PRAISE TO KUWAIT INTERIOR/ DEFENSE MINISTER SHAIKH SA'AD WHO HE SAID REMAINED COOL THROUGHOUT AND STUCK TO HIS BARGAINING POSITION OF BEING UNWILLING TO REFUEL THE PLANE UNLESS ALL THE PASSENGERS WERE RELEASED. AL-BAHAR SAID HIJACKERS BECAME HIGHLY NERVOUS AT ONE POINT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HIJACKING WHEN IT APPEARED KUWAITI TROOPS WERE MOVING IN. ON AT

LEAST ONE OCCASION WHEN THEIR DEMANDS WERE NOT
NET, THEY THREATENED TO SHOOT SOMEONE AND THEN BACKED
OFF AT THE LAST MINUTE. SOURCE SAID THAT TALL 18 YEAR
OLD MEMBER OF THE GROUP WAS VERY NERVOUS AND RUDE, BUT
THE REST OF THE HIJACKERS WERE NO PROBLEM. LEADER
INSISTED LECTURING AL-BAHAR ON GOALS OF THE GROUP IN
WHAT TO AL-BAHAR WAS A HIGHLY INCOHERENT FASHION.
ACCORDING TO SOURCE, HIJACKERS DEMANDED RELEASE OF ONE
PFLP MEMBER (APPARENTLY IN DAMASCUS) WHO, ACCORDING TO SHAIKH
SA'AD, APPARENTLY HAD BEEN RELEASED. HIJACK LEADER HAD WANTED
TO FLY DIRECTLY FROM KUWAIT TO ADEN BUT HIS CO-LEADER INSISTED
ON FLYING TO DAMASCUS, APPARENTLY TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF
SOME PFLP MEMBERS THERE. THIS CAUSED SPLIT BETWEEN TWO
AND, ACCORDING TO AL-BAHAR, WHEN THEY LEFT FOR
DAMASCUS, THEY WERE NOT SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT03803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770245-0473
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770773/aaaactlg.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ab3bf96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1910398
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PASSENGER VERSION OF KUWAIT HIJACKING
TAGS: PINS, EAIR, KU, MEA
To: STATE DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab3bf96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009